

Inspection report for early years provision

Unique reference number	EY303071
Inspection date	02/12/2011
Inspector	Chris Hodge
Type of setting	Childminder

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Introduction

This inspection was carried out by Ofsted under Sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of the registered early years provision. 'Early years provision' refers to provision regulated by Ofsted for children from birth to 31 August following their fifth birthday (the early years age group). The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and welfare, known as the *Early Years Foundation Stage*.

The provider must provide a copy of this report to all parents with children at the setting where reasonably practicable. The provider must provide a copy of the report to any other person who asks for one, but may charge a fee for this service (The Childcare (Inspection) Regulations 2008 regulations 9 and 10).

The setting also makes provision for children older than the early years age group which is registered on the voluntary and/or compulsory part(s) of the Childcare Register. This report does not include an evaluation of that provision, but a comment about compliance with the requirements of the Childcare Register is included in Annex B.

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Description of the childminding

The childminder registered in 2005. She lives with her husband, adult daughter and 12-year-old son. Her husband and daughter are registered as her assistants. They live in a three-bedroom house in Abbey Wood, in the London Borough of Greenwich. The whole of the ground floor, including the conservatory, living room and toilet facilities are used for childminding. Children also have access to a bedroom for sleeping during school holidays and the first floor bathroom. There is an enclosed garden for outside play with a wooden, summer house. The family has a pet dog. The childminder is on the Early Years Register and on the compulsory and voluntary parts of the Childcare Register. When working on her own, she is registered to care for a maximum of six children under eight years; of these, not more than three may be in the early years age group. When working with an assistant, she may care for a maximum of 12 children under eight years; of these, not more than six may be in the early years age group. When working with two assistants she may care for a maximum of 18 children under eight years; of these, not more than nine may be in the early years age group. She is currently caring for nine children in the early years age group, one of whom is full time. The childminder is part of an approved childminding network and is a member of the National Childminding Association.

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

Overall the quality of the provision is outstanding.

The childminder provides children with a fully inclusive, stimulating indoor and outdoor environment so their needs are exceptionally well met. She has very good knowledge of the children and extremely effective partnerships with parents and other early years professionals. These ensure that children make excellent progress in almost all aspects of their learning. Children's health and safety are given high priority and are underpinned by comprehensive policies and procedures. The childminder is extremely professional in all aspects of her provision. She is very committed and proactive with outstanding capacity to ensure that outcomes for children are continually improved.

What steps need to be taken to improve provision further?

To further improve the high quality early years provision the registered person should consider:

- increasing children's understanding that text carries meaning by using picture and written labelling on boxes of resources and equipment.

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

The childminder is extremely conscientious in the organisation of her provision and children's safety. She has an exceptionally understanding about child protection issues and attends frequent training so that her knowledge is kept up to date. Her comprehensive, safeguarding folder and written policy ensure that parents fully understand her role and responsibility to report any concerns in line with local procedures. Rigorous and robust risk assessments for the home and outings, together with regularly practised emergency procedures, help to ensure children are safe. All required documentation is in place and is professionally maintained.

The childminder makes extremely good use of the available space in her home. She has an extensive range of very good quality, play resources that are effectively deployed in the purpose-built playroom and garden. These provide children with very good opportunities to self-select and make independent choices about their play. Many more resources are stored in the shed and are regularly rotated. Furniture, equipment and resources are of a high quality and entirely suitable for the ages of children to support their learning and development. The childminder is committed to providing a service that is fully inclusive and meets the individual needs of all families. She recognises the uniqueness of each child and is fully able to support children with disabilities. Partnerships with parents are very strong. The childminder provides parents with excellent information about her practice. She works closely to keep them fully informed about their children's care, progress and development. Feedback on parents' questionnaires is very positive. The childminder has very good links and works in partnerships with the local authority, local schools, nurseries, social services, speech therapists and her network development officer. Information shared with other early years settings children attend ensures that they are provided with high levels of continuity and consistency in their learning.

The childminder and her assistants are totally committed to providing a high standard of care and to continually improve outcomes for children. Since her previous inspection, the childminder has attended several training courses. She has redeveloped the outside play area, designing a stimulating and physical environment that is highly suitable for children of all ages. Her daughter has recently graduated with a BA Honours Degree in Childhood Studies to share a very good understanding of the Early Years Foundation Stage framework. The childminder uses self-evaluation very effectively to identify strengths and areas for future development. As a network childminder, she receives regular support from her network coordinator and frequently meets with other childminders to share good practice.

The quality and standards of the early years provision and outcomes for children

Children are extremely relaxed and very much at home in the childminder's care. They relate very well to the childminder, who is warm, responsive and demonstrates a very good understanding of their individual needs and preferences. The childminder knows children exceptionally well. She supports them fully to make excellent progress across all areas of learning and development, in relation to their starting points and capabilities. She very effectively observes children and spends time with them during activities. She skilfully uses information gained about interests, skills and abilities to efficiently track children's progress and to plan activities which engage and help them develop. These fully promote children's development in all six areas of learning and help them to gain excellent skills for the future.

Children feel extremely safe and secure. The childminder is constantly available to support them and build their confidence through positive relationships, familiar routines, high levels of interaction and consistent boundaries. Children show excellent independence, curiosity, imagination and concentration. They actively engage in activities and confidently make choices about what they want to play with. The childminder is skilful at using activities throughout children's play to extend their counting skills and to help them recognise colours, number, shapes and letters. She constantly talks to children, encouraging their communication skills. Children confidently use language to organise their play and to express their thoughts and ideas. They have very good access to a wide selection of books and listen attentively to familiar stories read to them. However, there are missed opportunities to extend children's understanding that text carries meaning as boxes of resources and equipment are not labelled. Children take part in stimulating activities to encourage their early writing skills and use puzzles and construction resources for problem solving. They immensely enjoy being creative and developing their imagination as they engage in challenging art and craft activities and devise role play, using small world resources for pretend play. Children eagerly explore the wider world on outings to parks, woods, farms, zoos and groups. Indoors, they have access a very good range of positive image resources and celebrate different festivals so they respect and learn about people's differences. The well equipped garden provides children with excellent opportunities for physical play and very effectively encourages children to learn about nature.

Children's health and welfare is fully promoted and they are highly encouraged to adopt healthy lifestyles. They engage in a very wide range of physical activities, both indoors and outdoors so they gain a secure understanding about the importance of regular exercise, as part of maintaining a healthy lifestyle. Children fully understand the importance of washing before they eat fresh fruit snacks and have water to drink throughout the day. All children show a strong sense of security and feel safe with the childminder. When walking to and from school and activities, they discuss road safety and stranger danger. The childminder and her assistants develop close relationships with children. They consistently promote highly positive behaviour by constantly praising and encouraging children's

achievements and promoting their social and independent skills. As a result children are friendly, sociable and play very well together.

Annex A: record of inspection judgements

The key inspection judgements and what they mean

Grade 1 is Outstanding: this aspect of the provision is of exceptionally high quality
Grade 2 is Good: this aspect of the provision is strong
Grade 3 is Satisfactory: this aspect of the provision is sound
Grade 4 is Inadequate: this aspect of the provision is not good enough

The overall effectiveness of the early years provision

How well does the setting meet the needs of the children in the Early Years Foundation Stage?	1
The capacity of the provision to maintain continuous improvement	1

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the early years provision

The effectiveness of leadership and management of the Early Years Foundation Stage	1
The effectiveness of leadership and management in embedding ambition and driving improvement	1
The effectiveness with which the setting deploys resources	1
The effectiveness with which the setting promotes equality and diversity	1
The effectiveness of safeguarding	1
The effectiveness of the setting's self-evaluation, including the steps taken to promote improvement	1
The effectiveness of partnerships	1
The effectiveness of the setting's engagement with parents and carers	1

The quality of the provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage

The quality of the provision in the Early Years Foundation Stage	1
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Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage

Outcomes for children in the Early Years Foundation Stage	1
The extent to which children achieve and enjoy their learning	1
The extent to which children feel safe	1
The extent to which children adopt healthy lifestyles	1
The extent to which children make a positive contribution	1
The extent to which children develop skills for the future	1

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Annex B: the Childcare Register

The provider confirms that the requirements of the compulsory part of the Childcare Register are:	Met
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The provider confirms that the requirements of the voluntary part of the Childcare Register are:	Met
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